

**DRAFT**

**Tribal Housing Section  
Mental Health Housing Action Plan  
July 2007**

**Prepared for  
DSHS Mental Health Division  
by  
Common Ground**

**Contact : Marj Dahlstrom  
509-326-3678 x23  
[marjd@commongroundwa.org](mailto:marjd@commongroundwa.org)**

### Overview of Tribal Housing Activities

There are 29 Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Nations in Washington State. Most of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Nations are located in western Washington. North Sound and Peninsula RSNs have the greatest number of Federally Recognized Tribes within their service areas. A list of RSNs and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Nations follows.

<b>RSN</b>	<b>Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Nations</b>
<b>Chelan-Douglas</b>	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
<b>Clark</b>	Cowlitz
<b>Grays Harbor</b>	Chehalis Confederated Tribe, Quinault Nation
<b>Greater Columbia</b>	Yakama Nation
<b>King</b>	Muckleshoot, Snoqualmie
<b>North Central</b>	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel, Spokane
<b>North Sound</b>	Lummi Nation, Nooksack, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Upper Skagit
<b>Peninsula</b>	Hoh, Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwa Klallam, Makah, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Quileute
<b>Pierce</b>	Puyallup
<b>Southwest</b>	Cowlitz
<b>Spokane</b>	Kalispel
<b>Thurston-Mason</b>	Chehalis Confederated, Nisqually, Skokomish, Squaxin Island
<b>Timberland</b>	Cowlitz, Shoalwater Bay

Each of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes or Nations in Washington State has a housing authority or tribally designated housing entity (TDHE). These housing authorities, or TDHEs, have the responsibility to administer federal funding for housing. Approximately 3,000 units of housing financed with federal funds have been built in these areas. More than half of these housing units were developed through the Mutual Help program and are owner occupied. The other 1,300 housing units were developed under the Low Rent program. Both programs limit the housing payment to 30% of the resident's income. All of the Tribal Housing Authority's contacted indicated that there is a shortage of housing in their area.

Some of the TDHEs have developed housing funded through funding sources other than the federal funds provided to TDHEs. Recently, several of the TDHEs have successfully competed for Low Income Housing Tax Credits. In the past three years, eight TDHEs have developed projects using LIHTC. More than 200 new homes will be built through this financing. Most of these developments will initially be rental units, and eventually some units will be converted to homeownership.

Housing and care for elders is a priority for many TDHEs. This includes home repair and maintenance assistance, subsidized rental housing and home purchase assistance. Tribes

that have supportive housing, crisis and/or treatment beds, assisted living or nursing homes include:

- Lower Elwa Klallam Tribe has a group home
- Puyallup Tribe has a 40 bed in-patient treatment facility, provides out-patient treatment for mental health and is planning an expansion of their treatment services
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe is developing a wellness center that will include mental health services
- The Lummi Nation has a Safe Home for youth with mental health and chemical dependency treatment needs
- Kalispel Tribe recently broke ground on an emergency foster care center that includes emergency shelter

Community action agencies provide state-funded weatherization, minor home repair and other housing programs throughout the state. Typically, these organizations serve a county or multiple counties. In the designated service areas of five of these providers, Native American households are more than 10% of the population. These providers are Coastal Community Action Program, Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties, Klickitat-Skamania Development Council, Northeast Rural Resources and Okanogan County Community Action Council. A close working relationship between the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe or Nation and the community action agencies assures that elders and other low-income households in their service areas receive these services.

### **Tribal Housing Projects in Development**

Housing is being planned by several Tribal Housing Authorities. The housing in development includes:

<b>Federally Recognized Tribe</b>	<b>Location of Housing</b>	<b>Number and Type of Units</b>
Confederated Tribes of Colville	Okanogan County	25 rental units, 5 units for households with disabilities
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Lewis County	18 cluster care for elders
Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Lewis County	18 leasehold units for elders
(Note: The Cowlitz Tribe estimates that as many as half of the cluster care units will house elders who receive mental health services)		
Nooksack Tribe	Whatcom County	42 rental units, 8 units for households with disabilities
Shoalwater Bay Tribe	Pacific County	21 rental units, 5 units for households with disabilities
The Tulalip Tribe	Snohomish County	50 rental units, 10 units for households with disabilities

## **Strategies for Increasing Housing Opportunities**

Strategy: Increasing the resources available to Tribal governments for housing and services for mental health services clients

- Tribal health services providers would have access to support services funding for permanent supportive housing for mental health services clients.
- Tribal Housing Authorities or other Tribal entity acting as landlord for housing mental health services clients would have access to risk mitigation funds.
- Develop model revenue sharing documents between county and Tribal government for use with .1% local sales tax

Strategy: Increasing the coordination and coloration between Tribal governments and local and state government

- Increase the communication between homeless housing and services providers and homeless Tribal members to assure equal access to housing and services.
- Increased coordination and collaboration with Tribal Criminal Justice systems
- MHD assistance in increasing participation of Tribes in local and state planning for housing and services for the homeless population
- Joint planning among MHD/DSHS, DOC, DVA, CTED, local and Tribal governments for the use of new funding for housing and services (funding authorized in 2007 state legislative session)

## Appendix—Tribal Housing Information Sources

### Source: System Transformation Meeting

Notes from meeting conducted by MHD on February 5, 2007 at the Puyallup Tribal Health Authority. Attendees included:

- Jennifer LaPointe, Puyallup Indian Health
- Deb Sosa, A.I.H.C.
- Helen C. Fenrich, Tulalip Tribes
- Ric W. Armstrong, Quinault Indian Nation
- Peter Selby, TriWest
- Andy Toulon, Avreayl Jacobson, and Gaye Jensen, Mental Health Division
- Doug North, Sharri Dempsey, and Carmelita Adkins, Indian Policy and Support Services
- Maria Monroe-Devita, WIMERT
- Paul Dziedzic, Facilitator

Questions/Comments from the meeting related to housing:

- The 6 RSNs surveyed should be asked what Tribal governments they work with
- Tribal governments should be asked what services they receive from RSNs
- Tribes need technical assistance on housing resources and development

### Source: Housing Telephone Focus Group

Invitees to April 23, 2007 Telephone Focus Group convened by MHD.

Name	Representing
Ben Descoteaux	Colville
Joseph Waner	Kalispel
Linda Thomas	Skokomish
Sheryl Fryberg	Tulalip
Cindy Robinson	Native Project
Adrienne Hunter	Upper Skagit

Actual telephone focus group attendees: Cindy Robison, Therapist, NATIVE Health of Spokane

Follow-up meeting with Cindy Robison (at her request) questions and her responses:

Question:

What are the greatest housing needs for mental health services clients in your area (e.g. affordability, lack of housing, location, etc.)?

Response:

Affordable housing for very low income

Housing for individuals with poor credit and criminal history

Need transitional and permanent housing

Question:

Are there members of your community who are hospitalized for longer than needed because they do not have housing? If so, what type of housing and services are needed for them to live in the community?

Response:

Yes

Placement is difficult for those who have been unsuccessful in housing in the past and do not have family in the area, not just in Spokane, but in other communities in eastern Washington

Question:

Is there a need in your community for housing for elders who need mental health services? Do they also have other medical needs? What type of housing would best suit their needs?

Response:

There are more housing options for elders than others; most of the people who come to NATIVE Health Services have multiple medical needs

Question:

Are you (or your agency) involved in planning housing in your community? If so, how are you involved?

Response:

I participate in the Spokane Homeless Coalition sometimes, we partner with several of the member organizations

Question:

Do you see any changes to the housing conditions in your community (e.g. new housing being built, need for more housing due to population growth, homes needing repair etc.)?

Response:

Fewer housing choices for the lowest income, most of the housing they can afford is not safe

Question:

Is there a need for crisis or respite care for your clients? Where do they receive those services now?

Response:

Some crisis beds are available, but some clients do not want to use services from other providers, many will not use shelter facilities

**Source: Northwest Indian Housing Association Quarterly Meeting**

Asked attendees at the Northwest Indian Housing Association Meeting held in Spokane on May 9<sup>th</sup> questions prepared for telephone focus group. Representatives of 21 Tribes from Oregon, Washington and Idaho attended the meeting. Questions asked included:

- What are the greatest housing needs for mental health services clients in your area (e.g. affordability, lack of housing, location, etc.)?
- Is there a need in your community for housing for elders who need mental health services? Do they also have other medical needs? What type of housing would best suit their needs?
- Do you see any changes to the housing conditions in your community (e.g. new housing being built, need for more housing due to population growth, homes needing repair etc.)?

Tribal Housing Authority representatives from Washington state attending the meeting included:

- Elena, Bassett, Director, Colville Indian Housing Authority
- Sheryl Bertucci, Assistant Director, Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing
- Brook Kristovich, Director, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Greg Combs, Puyallup Tribe-Housing Division
- Freda Charles, Quinault Housing Authority
- Larry Winders, Skokomish Tribe
- Lorrie Ellsworth, Director, Spokane Indian Housing Authority
- John Petrich, Swinomish Housing Authority
- Wade Porter, Assistant Executive Director, Yakama Nation Housing Authority
- Audrey Grafstrom, Director, Quileute Housing Authority

**Responses:**

- Housing needs mentioned: lack of housing, lack of funding for housing, housing affordability for low income
- Housing for elders: 4 of the Tribal representatives said that housing for elders is a great need, 2 Tribal representatives indicated housing with services for elders was needed
- Changes in housing needs: housing is becoming more expensive to develop, water and sewer services need to be expanded before they can develop additional housing

**Source: Interview, phone calls, e-mail with attendees about specific housing projects mentioned at NWIHA meeting**

- Elena Bassett, Director, Colville Indian Housing Authority
- Sheryl Bertucci, Assistant Director, Cowlitz Indian Tribal Housing
- Brook Kristovich, Director, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Sebnem Pura, Director, Nooksack Tribe
- David Bell, Director, Southern Puget Sound Inter-Tribal Housing Authority
- Charles Anderson, Director, The Tulalip Tribe

**Source: North Sound RSN Tribal Mental Health Conference**

Attended the North Sound RSN Tribal Mental Health Conference on May 2-3, 2007. attended conference sessions, listened to participants questions of the presenters, asked individual participants about housing needs

**Observations:**

- None of the conference sessions focused on housing
- Few of the questions in the conference sessions related to housing
- Most frequent comment on housing was lack of affordable housing available for clients and health care providers, some providers said they commute an hour to their job
- Few crisis housing options available for their mental health services clients